



National Poetry Month

April Rain Song

Let the rain kiss you
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops
Let the rain sing you a lullaby
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk
The rain makes running pools in the gutter
The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night
And I love the rain.

By Langston Hughes

National Poetry Month was established by the Academy of American Poets as a month-long, national celebration of poetry. It is celebrated every April.

Websites You May Want to Visit

Poetry Month

<http://www.poets.org/npm/>

InfoPlease - National Poetry Month

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/pmonth1.html>

Bartleby - Verse

<http://www.bartleby.com/verse/>

International Library of Poetry

<http://www.poetry.com/>

Poet's Corner

http://www.gale.com/free_resources/poets/index.htm

Books You May Want to Read

Go to the TEL Database, **What Do I Read Next** and choose to do a Custom Search. Under Subject, choose poetry and then hit Search

You may also want to try the following search strategies in your library catalog.

poetry	ballads	free verse	haiku
poetry collections	poetry indexes	poetry study and teaching	verse
limerick	sonnet	cinquain	acrostic

To Find More Poetry

In TEL, go to **Student Edition** or **Junior Edition - K12** and use the following search strategies:

poetry poetic techniques



National Poetry Month

Activity

To celebrate National Poetry Month, visit a poetry slam or plan one in your area. To find out more information about poetry slams, visit Poetry Slam Incorporated at www.poetryslam.com/

Some Slam FAQs:

What is poetry slam?

Simply put, poetry slam is the competitive art of performance poetry. It puts a dual emphasis on writing and performance, encouraging poets to focus on what they're saying and how they're saying it.

What is a poetry slam?

A poetry slam is an event in which poets perform their work and are judged by members of the audience. Typically, the host or another organizer select the judges, who are instructed to give numerical scores (on a zero to 10 or one to 10 scale) based on the poet's content and performance.

What are the rules?

Though rules vary from slam to slam, the basic rules are:

- Each poem must be of the poet's own construction;
- Each poet gets three minutes (plus a ten-second grace period) to read one poem, if the poet goes over, points will be deducted from the total score;
- The poet may not use props, costumes, or musical instruments;
- Of the scores the poet received from the five judges, the high and low scores are dropped, and the middle three are added together, giving the poet a total score of 0-30.

What can the audience do?

The official MC spiel of Poetry Slam, Inc. encourages the audience to respond to the poets or the judges in any way they see fit, and most slams have adopted that guideline. Audiences can boo or cheer at the conclusion of a poem, or even during a poem.

How do I win a poetry slam?

Winning a poetry slam requires some measure of skill and a huge dose of luck. The judges' tastes, the audience's reactions, and the poets' performances all shape a slam event, and what wins one week might not get a poet into the second round the next week. There's no formula for winning a slam, although you become a stronger poet and performer the same way you get to Carnegie Hall — practice, practice, practice.